

STAFF

School Medical Officer:

IAN CAMPBELL MACKAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy School Medical Officer:

ARNOLD BROWN, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

District School Medical Officers:

R. J. CLARK, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

JENNY CRAIG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

J. S. B. FORDE, M.B., Ch.B.

W. J. McIVOR, B.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MARY A. THOMAS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

GLADYS WILKINSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Ophthalmic Surgeons (Part-Time):

E. ALLAN, M.B., Ch.B.

ELEANOR BROCK, M.B., D.O.M.S.

S. H. FAULKNER, M.D., M.R.C.P.I., D.O.M.S.

CYRIL JACOBS, M.D., M.B., B.S.

A. C. SHUTTLEWORTH, M.B., D.O.M.S.

Orthopædic Surgeons (Part-Time):

F. G. ALLAN, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

H. OSMOND CLARKE, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., F.R.C.S.

T. HARTLEY MARTIN, M.B., Ch.B.

G. T. PARTRIDGE, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.

HARRY PLATT, M.S., F.R.C.S.

HENRY POSTON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

D. WAINWRIGHT, M.Ch.Orth., F.R.C.S.

School Dental Surgeons:

H. R. PARRY, L.D.S. (Senior)

J. L. DICKSON, L.D.S. (with H.M. Forces)

G. H. V. FROGGATT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.

J. M. GIBBONS, L.D.S. (with H.M. Forces)

A. F. HELY, L.D.S. (with H.M. Forces)

L. H. HILTON, L.D.S. (with H.M. Forces)

H. JACKSON, L.D.S. (with H.M. Forces)

F. L. JONES, L.D.S.

W. K. LEVER, L.D.S. (temporary)

H. LIPKIN, L.D.S. (temporary)

E. S. POULTER, L.D.S.

DOROTHY J. REECE, L.D.S. (temporary)

H. SCHWEITZER (temporary)

H. W. S. SHEASBY, L.D.S.

E. JOHNSON TAYLOR, L.D.S.

E. WARD, L.D.S. (temporary)

School Nurses: 42 (Health Visitors)

Dental Nurses and Attendants: 11

Superintendent Clerk: VINCENT O'CONNOR

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Education Committee*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following is an extract from Form 6M issued by the Medical Branch of the Board of Education:—

“In view of the need for extreme economy in the use of paper the Board request that these Reports may be as brief as possible. They should contain a statement of the general effect of the war on the physical and mental welfare of the children, with special reference to their nutrition and to the effects of the provision of school meals and milk; a note as to cleanliness, e.g., incidence of pediculosis and scabies and any alterations in the strength of the medical, dental and nursing staff.”

The Report which follows has therefore been limited accordingly.

Yours obediently,

IAN MACKAY,

Chief School Medical Officer.

31st May, 1942.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT
 OF THE
CHIEF SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
 FOR 1941

General

The Administrative County of Cheshire comprises 43 County Districts, namely 9 Municipal Boroughs, 24 Urban Districts and 10 Rural Districts.

The Education Committee is the Local Education Authority for the whole Administrative County with the exception of 6 Municipal Boroughs, namely, Congleton, Crewe, Dukinfield, Hyde, Macclesfield and Stalybridge.

The population estimated by the Registrar-General at mid-1941, for the area exclusive of these Boroughs, was 606,040.

The total number of Schools in the whole educational area at 31.3.41, with their enrolments, was as follows:—

	Schools	Enrolments
Elementary	347	60739
Secondary	19	7527

School Buildings

The Alterations to West Kirby County High School for Girls are practically completed.

The Alterations and Extensions at Sale Springfield Road School and Middlewich Council School are proceeding.

Work on the erection of Sale Cecil Avenue Senior School has been stopped owing to war conditions.

Work on the erection of Helsby New Secondary School has been stopped.

Bromborough Acre Lane New School has been partially completed and portions have been taken over for use as Emergency Cooking Depôt, British Restaurant, and Emergency Rest Centre, respectively.

Work in connection with the provision of Canteen facilities has been carried out at various Schools, and sundry minor alterations and additions have been completed.

The School Medical Services in War Time, 1941

With the exception of one district, where the position of School Dentist was vacant for a part of the year, the full staff of School Medical Officers, Dental Surgeons, Health Visitors, and Dental Nurses was available for County services during 1941. Some difficulty was found in filling vacancies caused by the calling up of Dentists, but it was nevertheless found possible to undertake the dental treatment of children evacuated to residential establishments in the County in addition to the ordinary School work.

The work of School Clinics has not been interfered with by Civil Defence considerations, and all clinics in use before the war have been continued, with additions dealing primarily with the care of evacuated children. At the beginning of the year, 6,327 evacuated school children were resident in the Administrative County. By the end of the year, this figure had fallen to 5,487. Children with dirty heads were cleansed at School Clinics, First Aid Posts, etc., by the Health Visitors, with satisfactory results. It cannot be said that the incidence of nits and lice in evacuated children was any greater than in children normally resident in the County. Evacuated children are examined in their age groups by the Assistant School Medical Officers at the same time as Cheshire children, and all County ancillary services are available to them.

Certain parts of the Borough of Bebington were declared to be evacuation areas during 1941, and 441 school children were evacuated to North Wales in June. Before evacuation, each child was thoroughly examined by the Assistant School Medical Officers. At the end of the year, 141 children had remained in the reception area.

Work concerning visual defects, orthopaedic defects, and tonsil and adenoid operations proceeded normally throughout the year.

The increase in cases of scabies noted in the annual report for 1940 has, unfortunately, been maintained. Children affected by this disease have been treated at school clinics,

and where thorough cleansing has not been possible in the home, this has been done in First Aid Posts. Clothing and bedding has been ^{dis}infested by the various Local Authorities, and a scheme of thorough co-operation between the various sanitary districts has been established in this connection.

In regard to infectious disease, there has been nothing special to note. 16 schools were closed by the School Medical Officer on this account during 1941, as compared with 15 in 1940.

There was a considerable increase in 1941 in the number of children receiving school meals and school milk. At the beginning of the year, 22,240 elementary school children were receiving school milk, while at the end of the year the number was 42,021, also 3,413 secondary school children. In the case of school meals, the numbers increased from 4,794 elementary to 6,343 elementary and 1,609 secondary. No appreciable variation was noted, as compared with the previous year, in the nutrition classification of routine age groups inspected.

The School Dental Service in War Time, 1941

Mr. H. R. Parry, Senior Dental Surgeon, reports:—

The dental staff consisted of 12 Dental Surgeons for 6 months, and 11 for the other 6 months.

In spite of the many difficulties arising as a result of war, the usual routine Inspection and Treatment of school children has been carried out in all areas, with the exception of one.

Complete treatment has been given to at least 90 per cent. of the 26,500 children accepting it, but curtailment of treatment was found necessary in the remaining 10 per cent. owing to 6 of the Dentists joining the Forces and one woman dentist transferring to her home authority.

Six of the seven vacancies have been filled, the remaining area being treated by other Dentists on the staff.

47,000 children were Inspected and 31,000 selected for Treatment. In comparison with last year, 4,000 more children were inspected and 2,000 treated, 4,000 more temporary teeth extracted, 300 more fillings inserted, and the percentage of acceptances rose from 82 to 85 per cent., all of which is most encouraging.

Orthopaedic Scheme

Number of attendances at orthopaedic clinics of non-tuberculous patients aged 5-16 during 1941.

CLINIC	No. of Patients on Registers, 1/1/41	No. of Patients admitted during the year	No. of Patients discharged during the year	No. of Patients on Registers, 31/12/41	Total number of Attendances
Alderley Edge	44	9	18	35	136
Altrincham ..	49	7	17	39	273
Chester ..	35	11	15	31	183
Congleton ..	12	4	4	12	104
Crewe ..	82	25	26	81	306
Ellesmere Port	54	23	8	69	974
Hoylake ..	21	11	9	23	451
Hyde ..	5	3	1	7	68
New Ferry ..	61	44	10	95	607
Northwich ..	2	3	3	2	147
Runcorn ..	69	40	37	72	789
Stockton Heath	22	4	8	18	209
	456	184	156	484	4247

In addition 1 patient made 16 attendances for sunlight treatment only at the Northwich Clinic.

Patients aged 5—16 receiving in-patient treatment during 1941

	Orthopædic Hospital, Oswestry	Open-Air Hospital, Leasowe	General Hospital, Altrincham	Children's Hospital, Heswall	Total
BOYS	5	8	—	—	13
GIRLS	9	4	1	—	14
Brodies abscess of left tibia	1	—	—	—	1
Feet (Deformities Various)	1	—	—	—	1
Hip (Dislocation)	—	2	—	—	2
Malformation of spine	—	1	—	—	1
Metatarsus Varus	1	—	—	—	1
Osteochondritis of spine	1	—	—	—	1
Osteomyelitis	—	1	—	—	1
Perthe's Disease	2	1	—	—	3
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—	—	2
Scoliosis	1	2	—	—	3
Spastic Hemiplegia	—	—	1	—	1
Spine (deformities various)	1	—	—	—	1
Talipes	4	2	—	—	6
Torticollis	1	2	—	—	3
Total	14	12	1	—	27

Physical Training

The Director of Education reports as follows:—

Physical Education in the County Schools has naturally been affected by war-time conditions. Fortunately, there has been full-time attendance in the schools during the past year, although a slight curtailment of hours was made during the winter months. The almost total cessation of air-raid warnings has made it possible to devote an adequate amount of time to physical training periods, except that it has not been possible to arrange normal swimming and games activities in some schools. The closure of public baths and increased difficulties of transport have caused a curtailment of swimming activities in some areas, and the number of children who have attended distant playing fields for organised games has been limited, especially where there is a lack of suitable air-raid provision at the field or on the way thereto.

The majority of Infants' and Junior Schools have arranged a daily period of physical activity and in Senior Departments where the lessons are of longer duration, physical training has been arranged on three or four days weekly. It is only to be expected that the chief effect of war-time conditions has been the limitation of more advanced work in the Senior Boys' Schools, owing to the withdrawal to the Forces of younger men teachers who had specialised in Physical Training. To meet this difficulty in the Senior and Secondary Schools, further daytime courses for older men teachers have been held during the year, under arrangements made by H.M.I. Physical Training. The primary feature of these courses has been to give predominance to teaching methods, while the personal achievement in the performance of the teacher has not been stressed. The interest of these teachers has resulted in a keen desire on their part to maintain a normal standard of work in their schools, although it is realised that the schemes of work have had to be modified. In a few cases, both in Secondary and Elementary Schools, women teachers have been called upon to assist in the work of boys' classes, chiefly with younger boys.

During the year, two courses in National Dancing were organised for women teachers in Elementary Schools, Youth Club leaders, teachers in Evening Institutes, and persons interested in Recreative Physical Training. The classes proved very popular and were well attended.

Although many boys and girls are still providing themselves with suitable footwear and clothing for physical training, there is evidence of increasing difficulty in obtaining

further supplies. The necessity for the surrendering of clothing coupons and the limited supply of shoes and gymnastic clothing available, will no doubt result in a decreasing number of boys and girls who are able to obtain the recommended outfit. Nevertheless, every effort should be made in schools to encourage the provision of suitable shoes and clothing, especially in those schools in which gymnastic apparatus is used.

Another effect of present day conditions is the decreasing supply of physical training and games equipment. Many schools have still a satisfactory supply of this equipment. With proper care of existing stocks, together with a full use of apparatus which can still be obtained, the lack of certain items should not prove a serious handicap to the general work.

Swimming.

During the past year there has been a decrease in the number of children attending for swimming instruction, due mainly to difficulties of transport in certain districts. It has been possible, however, to arrange swimming instruction for approximately two-thirds of pre-war numbers. In all, 15 swimming baths were attended by 5,218 Elementary School children, 2,556 Girls and 2,632 Boys, who made a total of 51,269 attendances. Of 3,790 non-swimmers at the beginning of the season, 1,664 learnt to swim. 402 1st Grade and 1,513 2nd Grade Swimming Certificates were awarded to boys and girls who passed the County Swimming Tests, and girls from several schools presented themselves for examination by the Royal Life-Saving Society, and gained 30 Elementary Certificates, 37 Intermediate Certificates and 16 Bronze Medallions.

Classes in Recreative Physical Training organised by the Authority in Evening Institutes and Youth Clubs numbered 94. Voluntary organisations have been assisted by the provision of instructors and equipment. The Government scheme of Registration of Boys and Girls of 16 to 18 years of age will, no doubt, cause a substantial increase in the membership of voluntary organisations, and pre-service training units, and physical training activities in these organisations will, therefore, be considerably extended. The Authority is desirous of assisting in this development as much as possible.

STATISTICAL TABLES

Public Elementary Schools

Table I.—Return of Medical Inspections

(A) Routine Medical Inspections

Number of Code Group Inspections—

Entrants	9263
Second Age Group	6462
Third Age Group	6618

Total ...	22343
-----------	-------

(B) Other Inspections

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections	15273
---	-------

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the Year in the Routine Age Groups

No. of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
22343	4321	19·34	14593	65·31	3377	15·1	52	·23

Table III.—Treatment Tables

Group I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V.).

Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year 17320

Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor

Eye Defects Treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.).

Disease or Defect	Number of Defects dealt with under the Authority's Scheme
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) ...	2501
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.) ...	201
Total ...	2702

No. of Children for whom spectacles were

(a) Prescribed	1493
(b) Obtained	1102

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat

NUMBER OF DEFECTS

Received Operative Treatment under the Authority's Scheme ...	821
Received other forms of Treatment	38
Total Number Treated ...	859

Table IV.—Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of Children inspected by the Dentist :—				Total.
			Aged	
(a) Routine age-groups	{	5	...	2470
		6	...	5659
		7	...	5805
		8	...	5682
		9	...	5498
		10	...	4305
		11	...	5031
		12	...	4590
		13	...	4765
		14	...	2341
		Over 14	...	934
				47080
(b) Specials	...	...	...	—
(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials)	...	...	...	47080
(2) Number found to require Treatment	...	...	...	31142
(3) Number actually Treated	...	...	...	26455
(4) Attendances made by Children for Treatment	...	...	...	30347
(5) Half-days devoted to Inspection	...	786	{	Total 4432
„ „ Treatment	...	3646		
(6) Fillings—Permanent Teeth	..	16274	{	Total 17049
Temporary Teeth	...	775		
(7) Extractions—Permanent Teeth	...	7488	{	Total 44722
Temporary Teeth	...	37234		
(8) Administration of general Anæsthetics for Extractions	1945			
(9) Other Operations—				
Permanent Teeth	...	4100	{	Total 4552
Temporary Teeth	...	452		

Table V.—Verminous Conditions.

(1) Average number of visits per School made during the year by School Nurses	..	...	...	6
(2) Total number of Examinations of Children in the Schools by School Nurses	...	...	...	197895
(3) Number of individual Children found unclean	...	...	...	6098
(4) Number of Children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	...	...	...	—
(5) Number of Cases in which Legal Proceedings were taken—				
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	—
(b) Under School Attendance Bye-Laws	...	...	...	—

Table VI.

Exceptional children not receiving special education
(At 31st December, 1941).

Blind Children.

At Public Elementary Schools.	At no School or Institution.
—	2

Deaf Children.

At Public Elementary Schools.	At no School or Institution.
—	—

Mentally Defective Children.

Total number of children notified during the year
ended 31st December, 1941, by the Local Education
Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority,
under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of
Children) Regulations, 1928 ——— 10

